COMMUNITY

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Clark Park Presents 13th Annual Winter Carnival and Hockey Classics

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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COMMUNITY

#2024TASH DECEMBER 5-7
TASH
CONFERENCE
NEW ORLEANS, LA

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"Self-Advocate" Professional Advocates for Disabled

Detroit Auto Show presentará los carros más emblemáticos de Hollywood y una impresionante colección de clásicos de la ciudad del motor

Tanto si eres fanático de los vehículos legendarios de Hollywood como si eres un aficionado a los autos clásicos, Detroit Auto Show, que se realizará del 10 al 20 de enero, tiene algo para todos, incluidos vehículos emblemáticos como el Ferrari Modena Spyder California de la exitosa película de 1986, "Un Experto en Diversiones", así como la exhibición de vehículos "Detroit por Décadas". Los visitantes de Huntington Place en Detroit verán estos carros especiales, junto con vehículos que representan 34 marcas reconocidas, lujosas y exóticas, además de una exhibición de más de 150 autos y camionetas modificados por entusiastas.

Las entradas para Detroit Auto Show se pueden comprar en detroitautoshow.com y se ofrece un paquete familiar, ideal para llevar a los niños. Las entradas para los Días de la Industria y la Presentación Benéfica también están disponibles en detroitautoshow.com.

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Detroit Auto Show to Debut Hollywood's Most Iconic Cars and Stunning Collection of Motor City Classics

Iconic vehicles like the Ferrari Modena Spyder California from the hit 1986 film, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," as well as a "Detroit Through the Decades" showcase of vehicles.

The Ferrari Modena Spyder California, from the 1986 film Ferris Bueller's Day Off, will be on display, along with the "Jurassic Park" Jeep Wrangler, made popular in the dinosaur-centric flick of the '90s, Pontiac Firebird Trans Am "KITT," one of the '80s most iconic rides from "Knight Rider" TV show, among others

Whether you're a fan of Hollywood's legendary vehicles, or a classic car aficionado, the Jan. 10-20 Detroit Auto Show has something for everyone, including iconic vehicles like the Ferrari Modena Spyder California from the hit 1986 film, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," as well as a "Detroit Through the Decades" showcase of vehicles. Visitors to Huntington Place in Detroit will see these rare specialty cars, together with vehicles representing 34 recognized, luxury and exotic brands, in addition to a curated showcase of 150+ enthusiasts' modified cars and trucks.

Tickets for the Detroit Auto Show can be purchased at detroitautoshow.com with a special family value pack being offered that's ideal for taking the kids to the show. Industry Days and Charity Preview tickets are also available at detroitautoshow.com.

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Two Hispanic Detroit Police Commissioners Achieve a Historic Milestone

The year 2024 marked the first time two Detroiters with Hispanic heritage served on the 11-member Board of Police Commissioners: Eva Garza Dewaelsche and Jesus Hernandez.

Commissioner Garza Dewaelsche recently returned as a Board member and joined with Commissioner Hernandez to create the special milestone in civilian oversight for Detroit.

"Detroit residents created the Board of Police Commissioners in 1974 because people of color were routinely profiled and harassed by police officers," said Commissioner Hernandez, a Ford Motor Co. executive who joined the Board in May 2020 during the pandemic. "It's an honor and very humbling to be part the history and to be part of the current generation ensuring equity and fairness through community-led oversight of the Police Department."

"Our City has been a national leader since Mayor Coleman Young appointed the first five Board members, who each reflected the diversity and values of Detroit residents," said Commissioner Garza Dewaelsche. "The Board has a very strong and proud tradition of reflecting the community and being the voice of the community for constitutional law enforcement and public safety."

Both joined the Board after appointments by Mayor Mike Duggan and confirmation by the City Council.

"We are delighted to share this special moment in Detroit history, and very happy to serve the entire community in the important role of Police Commissioner," they added.

Jesus M Hernandez

Eva Garza Dewaelsche.

For Garza Dewaelsche, the longtime president and CEO of SER-Metro Detroit Jobs for Progress, returning to the Board of Police Commissioners also marked an unprecedented third mayoral appointment. Mayor Dennis Archer appointed her to serve from 1998-2002 when the Board still had five members, all appointed by the mayor. In 2012, the new Charter expanded the Board to 11 members, with seven elected in districts and four appointed; Mayor Duggan then appointed her to the reconfigured Board. Her current appointment began in late summer and ends in October 2028.

Coincidentally, Commissioner Hernandez filled the open Board seat after Commissioner Garza Dewaelsche's second appointment ended in 2020. They both also grew up in Southwest Detroit.

All Police Commissioners serve as unpaid volunteers.

The Board of Police Commissioners meets weekly on Thursday at 3 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters except on the second Thursday when the Board holds a monthly community meeting at 6:30 p.m. at various locations. The Board may also hold committee meetings. For meeting schedules and other information, visit www.detroitmi.gov/BOPC.

Editor's Note: Eva Garza Dewaelsche is also the Owner and Publisher of EL CENTRAL. We are equally proud of her community service!

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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Clark Park Presents 13th Annual Winter Carnival and Hockey Classics

Get ready for a day of free family fun at Clark Park on Saturday, January 18 when the Clark Park Coalition hosts its 13th Annual Winter Carnival and outdoor charity classic hockey games. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun from 12noon to 4 p.m. for ice skating, a petting zoo, horse-drawn carriage rides through the streets of Southwest Detroit, roasting marshmallows, savoring s'mores, exploring the nature van from Huron Metro Parks, outdoor games, and a very special visit from Detroit fire fighters.

Hockey fans are invited to cheer on the teams starting at 6 p.m. when the action moves to the women's charity hockey game, followed by the men's game at 7:30 p.m.

"We expect up to 1,000 people to come out and enjoy the day," said event director and Clark Park business manager Kate Brennan. The day's activities and attendance at the hockey games are free of charge.

"This is the 11th year we've included the Winter Classic hockey games with the Carnival," said Brennan. Free Press columnist and former Fox 2 investigative reporter M.L. Elrick and attorney Mike Rataj established the charity hockey games in 2015.

Players raise funds and donate money to participate in the charity hockey games. The Winter Carnival and Charity Hockey Classics are the major fundraisers for Clark Park, which is also supported by Patronicity, which hosts an online fundraiser at patronicity.com/ClarkPark2025. "No donation is too big or too small," Brennan said, "And it all helps us provide activities for kids year-round."

Winter Carnival sponsors include DTE Energy Foundation Fund, Huntington Bancshares Fund, Henry Ford Health, Watchmen Ink, Thomas Magee's Sporting House and Whiskey Bar, the Brennan Group, the Allen Rice Fund and Credit Union One. Clark Park is located just off I-75 at 1130 Clark Avenue in the heart of Southwest Detroit.

Call 313 841 8534 or visit www.clarkparkdetroit.com for further information.

FREE!
2025 CLARK PARK WINTER CARNIVAL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
CARNAVAL DE INVIERNO
SABADO 18 DE ENERO
12 PM – 4 PM
Food • Outdoor Games • Music •
Petting Zoo • Horse-Drawn Carriage •
Marshmallow Roasting • Ice Skating
& Much More!
CLARK PARK
WINTER CARNIVAL HOCKEY CLASSIC
JUEGO DE INVIERNO DE HOCKEY CLASICO
6 PM: Women's Game / Juego de Mujeres
7:30 PM: Men's Game / Juego de Hombres
Clark Park COALITION DETROIT
Clark Park: 1130 Clark Street, Detroit, MI 48209
For more information call (313) 841 8534 or email clarkparkdetroit@gmail.com
CITY OF DETROIT
We Make It Happen!
Detroit Recreation Department

“Self-Advocate” Shares Life Experiences with Professional Advocates for Disabled

Written and photos by Jacqueline Cuevas

In early December last year, Tash held their annual conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. Each year the conference unites self-advocates and allies to share resources, testimonials and create significant friendships and relationships with people who share similar experiences. Conference attendees are made up of a diverse pool of individuals who come from all around the United States and some international visitors with the common goal of committing to this year’s theme of Celebrate Together: Let the Good Times Roll!

TASH is a member based disability advocacy organization that was founded in 1974. TASH encourages its members to make significant strides to change policy and professional practices. Through its efforts, people with significant disabilities are more likely to be included as contributing citizens in all aspects of community life. For 50 years TASH has focused on obtaining and protecting human rights and securing inclusion for individuals with significant disabilities. It provides support needs to those who are most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect and institutionalization.

TASH uses advocacy, research, professional development, and resources for self-advocates and their families to build inclusive communities. Through its Inclusive Practices, a quarterly journal available online, TASH reveals the latest research to everyone who lives or works with people with significant support needs. Inclusive Practices also publishes articles that provide best practices and strategies for practitioners, families, and self-advocates.

I first met staff members of TASH in March 2023 in Lansing Michigan for Voices in Action Day, a day organized by SAM (Self Advocates of Michigan) where self-advocates meet with their state legislators to discuss policies and concerns regarding their lived experiences as disabled people in hopes to create lasting change for disability rights, awareness and justice. Donald Taylor, Manager, Membership & Communications for TASH, was there interviewing self- advocates for their Storytellers for Change project.

In mid-June 2024 an email came from TASH requesting proposals for this year’s conference, I went straight to work and submitted a proposal that aligns with my life’s mission to bring awareness to the lived experiences of Disabled people in our Latinx communities. From experience I know how harmful the cultural social stigma can be towards the quality of life the disabled individual born into families who don’t understand disabilities and or lack the language, education or desire to take steps to accommodate and advocate for the human rights of their disabled family members. With the help and support of SAM and SABE (Self advocates Becoming Empowered) I submitted my proposal under the general format Titled: How Self-Advocacy Helped Me Break Cultural Stigmas About Disability. I was delighted to have been selected and to attend my first TASH conference as one of the presenters.

This year’s participants, composed of professors and researchers from leading institutions; dedicated citizens involved in local, state, and federal governments, educators, students, self-advocates, adult service providers, family members were greeted in a brightly lit foyer aligned with various vendor and information tables filled with stickers, literature and resources prevalent to affirming disability awareness inclusion and education from organizations such as the Disability Employment TA Center, Mass Mutual Special Care, Institute on Community Integration, Wise and TASH. The same space held numerous tables filled with dozens of donated items for the silent auction to raise money in support of TASH and all that it accomplishes. I browsed through and bid on items as grand as a Beach rental in the Florida Keys and as simple as children’s Nerf Guns and Tye Dye kits.

Before the conference, TASH sent out the conference schedule and encouraged attendees to download their app to review the conference offerings and select classes and workshops we wanted to attend. On my first night I attended the film festival that featured The Ride Ahead, a documentary featuring Samuel Habib, a man with cerebral palsy who invites viewers to experience life from his perspective. On the second day, I presented with nine other contributors in a ballroom that was reserved for a series of testimonials and lectures titled TASH Talks.

After sharing my lived experiences, details of my diagnosis and how life affirming Self Advocacy has been, I set out to explore the event. In addition to the TASH talks there was a lot to choose from to fill your day that was certain to meet your unique interests including breakout sessions based on personal experiences like: A Latinas’ Mother’s Journey: A Study of Advocacy and Change, an interactive presentation to understand ABLE savings accounts for people with disabilities to save for disability-related expenses, a look into the social Impact of An Inclusive Dance Program, and Poster Presentations from professors, medical and doctoral students across the country.

There was also an inclusive dance party and a filming opportunity with Washington state’s Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to hear authentic stories that center on the lived experiences of students, families, educators and school districts.

The four-day event ended with a box lunch gathering where self-advocates socialized and connected with each other and the news that I had won a few of the items I bid on. I headed back to Detroit knowing firsthand how TASH uplifts self-advocates, fuels them with knowledge and tools to improve the outcome of their daily lives by assuring them that they have a place in their communities and the power to break the stigma that comes with being a disabled person.

About TASH: TASH is an international leader in disability advocacy. Founded in 1975, TASH advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with significant disabilities and support needs – those most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect and institutionalization. TASH works to advance inclusive communities through advocacy, research, professional development, policy, and information and resources for parents, families and self-advocates. The inclusive practices TASH validates through research have been shown to improve outcomes for all people.

TASH TALKS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM
BALLROOM: CELESTIN E
Building A Health Education Website Together
Challenging Low Expectations: Navigating Systemic Barriers to Academic Education For Students with I/DD
Combating Ableism With Your POWER
Factors Influencing Expectations For Post-School Outcomes: A Scoping Review
For The Love Of Dog: Dogs And Suicide Prevention
How Self-Advocacy Helped Me Break Cultural Stigmas About Disability
Poetry And The Spectrum: Selected Readings By A Caregiver Parent
Primary And Preventative Care Utilization In Adults With IDD
Supporting Employment with Dignity Through First-Hand Experience
The Sound of Inclusion: Using Podcasts to Shift Perceptions About Inclusive

Detroit Auto Show

Con't from pg. 1

Hagerty, a multi-faceted automotive lifestyle brand that fuels car culture for future generations, is joining forces with the Detroit Auto Show in bringing a sampling of celebrated TV and movie vehicles. In addition to the "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" Ferrari, show-goers will see original and replicas of the:

- Volkswagen Beetle "Swinger 2" from "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me" (provided by Petersen Automotive Museum)
- Griswold's "Wagon Queen Family Truckster" from "National Lampoon's Vacation"
- Rosso Corsa red Ferrari 308 G synonymous with the "Magnum P.I." TV series (provided by Petersen Automotive Museum)
- Pontiac Firebird Trans Am "KITT," one of the '80s most iconic rides from "Knight Rider" TV show
- "Jurassic Park" Jeep Wrangler, made popular in the dino-saur-centric flick of the '90s

Vanguard Motors, one of the nation's premier high-quality classic and muscle car dealerships, will also be partnering with the Show to bring "Detroit Through the Decades," a cavalcade of some of the most significant Motown cars and trucks from throughout the years. Vehicles include:

- 1923 Ford 5-Window Coupe Street Rod "American Graffiti Build"
- 1949 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible
- 1958 Chevrolet Impala
- 1964 Ford Mustang Convertible
- 1965 Pontiac GTO Convertible
- 1965 Shelby Cobra Superformance
- 1967 Ford Mustang Fastback
- 1970 Chevrolet Camaro
- 1970 Dodge Charger R/T
- 1971 Chevrolet K-20 4×4 Pickup
- 1979 Ford Bronco
- 2009 Dodge Viper SRT-10 ACR

"We're pleased to partner with Hagerty and Vanguard Motors to offer audiences this rare opportunity to see a collection of truly unique and iconic vehicles that show-goers could not see in any other venue," said Detroit Auto Show Chairman Karl Zimmermann. "The fun and engaging blend of cars and trucks at this year's Show will appeal to all ages — from kids to grandparents and everyone in between."

In addition to the multitude of vehicles lining the Show floor, visitors will have the opportunity to experience firsthand an array of ICE (internal combustion engine), hybrid and electric vehicles through ride-along activations on one of four indoor tracks at Huntington Place. Ford Motor will be bringing its Ford Bronco Built Wild Track, while Jeep will take show-goers on its Camp Jeep experiential activation. The new Detroit Grand Prix-themed track will incorporate some of the signature elements of the Downtown Detroit street circuit, while the Powering Michigan EV Experience track returns, sponsored by the Powering Michigan team of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 58 and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA).

The vehicles on display throughout the Detroit Auto Show represent a blend of entries from auto manufacturers, Metro Detroit dealerships, premier specialty vehicle dealers and the enthusiasts' community.

ABOUT THE DETROIT AUTO SHOW

Recognized as one of the world's most influential automotive events, the Detroit Auto Show offers a platform for cutting-edge automotive and mobility innovations. With immersive experiences, brand-defining vehicles, and hands-on activations, the show invites attendees to witness the future of mobility.

Highlights of the 2025 Detroit Auto Show:

- Media Day, Friday, Jan. 10
- Charity Preview, Friday, Jan. 10
- Industry Days and AutoMobili-D, Wednesday, Jan. 15 and Thursday, Jan. 16 (Exclusive Industry Access 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.)
- Mobility Global Forum, Wednesday, Jan. 15 and Thursday, Jan. 16
- Future Leaders Forum, Wednesday, Jan. 15 and Thursday, Jan. 16
- Racing Day presented by the Detroit Grand Prix, Friday, Jan. 17
- Driven by Service Day, Saturday, Jan. 18
- Public Show, Saturday, Jan. 11 through Monday, Jan. 20

For more details, visit detroitautoshow.com and follow the Detroit Auto Show on social media for the latest news.

DETROIT
AUTO SHOW
Industry Days &
Public Show Group
Tickets Available
Now!
January 10 - 20, 2025
The Detroit Auto Show returns to January!
Experience the world-famous Detroit Auto Show
January 11 – 20, 2025 with our Group Sales
Ticket Program. Order form attached.

Detroit Auto Show

Con't de pg. 1

Hagerty, una marca de estilo de vida automotriz multifacética que impulsa la cultura del automóvil para las generaciones futuras, está uniendo fuerzas con Detroit Auto Show para traer una muestra de los vehículos emblemáticos de programas de televisión y las películas. Además del Ferrari de "Un Experto en Diversiones", los asistentes al salón verán originales y réplicas de:

- Volkswagen Beetle "Swinger 2" de "Austin Powers: El espía seductor" (proporcionado por Petersen Automotive Museum)
- "Wagon Queen Family Truckster" de Griswold de "Vacaciones familiares"
- Ferrari 308 G rojo Rosso Corsa, de la serie de televisión "Magnum" (proporcionada por Petersen Automotive Museum)
- Pontiac Firebird Trans Am "KITT", uno de los vehículos más emblemáticos de los años 80 del programa de televisión "El Auto Fantástico"
- Jeep Wrangler de "Parque Jurásico", que se hizo popular en la película centrada en los dinosaurios de los años 90

Vanguard Motors, uno de los principales concesionarios de autos clásicos y de alta calidad del país, también se asociará con el Show para presentar "Detroit por Décadas", una exhibición de algunos de los autos y camionetas más importantes de Motown de todos los años. Esos carros se listan en otra parte de esta página.

"Nos complace asociarnos con Hagerty y Vanguard Motors para ofrecerle al público esta oportunidad única de ver una colección de vehículos verdaderamente icónicos que los asistentes al Show no podrán ver en ningún otro lugar", comentó el presidente del Detroit Auto Show, Karl Zimmermann. "La divertida y atractiva combinación de autos y camionetas en el Show de este año atraerá a personas de todas las edades".

Además de la cantidad de vehículos que se exhibirán en el salón, los visitantes tendrán la oportunidad de experimentar de primera mano una variedad de vehículos con motor de combustión interna, híbridos y eléctricos a través de activaciones de recorridos en una de las cuatro pistas cubiertas en Huntington Place. Ford Motor traerá su Ford Bronco Built Wild Track, mientras que Jeep llevará a los asistentes a la exhibición en su activación experiencial Camp Jeep. La nueva pista temática del Grand Prix de Detroit incorporará algunos de los elementos característicos del circuito callejero del centro de Detroit, mientras que la pista Powering Michigan EV Experience regresa, patrocinada por el equipo Powering Michigan de International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 58 y la National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA).

Los vehículos que se exhibirán en Detroit Auto Show representan una combinación de fabricantes de automóviles, concesionarios de Metro Detroit, de vehículos especiales de primer nivel y la comunidad de entusiastas.

ACERCA DEL DETROIT AUTO SHOW.

Reconocido como uno de los eventos automotrices más influyentes del mundo, ofrece una plataforma para innovaciones automotrices y de movilidad de vanguardia. Con experiencias inmersivas, vehículos que definen la marca y activaciones prácticas, el evento invita a los asistentes a presenciar el futuro automotriz.

Para obtener más detalles, visite detroitautoshow.com y siga Detroit Auto Show en las redes sociales para conocer las últimas novedades.

New Support Services for Non-Citizen Victims of Sex and Labor Trafficking

The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants is proud to announce the formation of the Surviving Trauma and Reaching Success (STARS) program to support foreign national survivors of sex and labor trafficking in Southeast Michigan. STARS conducts outreach, provides case management assistance, and offers free immigration legal services.

Human trafficking often operates in secrecy as refugees and immigrants are exploited in hotels and restaurants, illicit massage/spa businesses, and countless other venues. Unscrupulous employers have engaged people from Central America and elsewhere in dangerous factory and farm work across the state. In 2023, more than 500 trafficking victims in Michigan were identified after contacting the National Human Trafficking Hotline; approximately 36% were foreign nationals. Many more victims continue to endure these crimes in silence.

Refugees and immigrants are particularly vulnerable to traffickers because of their non-citizen status and other barriers. Some are threatened with being reported to immigration authorities if they resist the demands of their employer, while others might be working to pay off a debt that is structured to never be paid off., USCRI is uniquely qualified to address these barriers through culturally appropriate and trauma-informed services provided in the survivor's native language. We are the nation's largest provider of services for foreign national survivors of human trafficking through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP)'s Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP) and Aspire: Child Trafficking Victim Assistance Program.

The STARS Program offers immigration legal representation which can provide a variety of options for legal relief, particularly T and U visas. Other potential remedies include Temporary Protected Status, Self-Petitions for Battered Spouses and Children (VAWA), Protection Orders, Asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Work Authorization, and more. Our case management team helps survivors access social services and supports needed to reach safety and stability.

If you believe that you or someone you know might be a victim of a trafficking crime, we encourage you to contact the STARS Program for more information about the program and to determine whether you might be eligible for relief. Your outreach and work with the STARS Program are kept strictly confidential. The STARS Program can be reached at STARS@refugees.org or by calling 313-484-0416.

ABOUT U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS AND STARS FUNDERS

The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), established in 1911, is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit international organization dedicated to addressing the needs and rights of refugees and immigrants. USCRI, working with nearly 200 affiliates, provides legal, social, and health services to refugees, unaccompanied migrating children, trafficking survivors, and other immigrants in all 50 states, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, and Mexico. USCRI advocates for the rights of refugees and immigrants both nationally and globally, helping to drive humanitarian policies, practices, and law. To learn more about USCRI, visit www.refugees.org

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the Michigan State Bar Foundation have contributed funding to STARS. This posting was produced by U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants under 15POVC-23-GG-04097-HT, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this posting are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Nuevos servicios de apoyo para las víctimas extranjeras de trata sexual y laboral

El Comité de los Estados Unidos para Refugiados e Inmigrantes se enorgullece de anunciar la formación del programa Surviving Trauma and Reaching Success (STARS) para apoyar a los sobrevivientes extranjeros de la trata sexual y laboral en el sureste de Michigan. STARS realiza actividades de divulgación, brinda asistencia para la gestión de casos y ofrece servicios legales gratuitos de inmigración.

La trata de personas a menudo se lleva a cabo en secreto, ya que los refugiados e inmigrantes son explotados en hoteles y restaurantes, negocios ilícitos de masajes, spas e innumerables lugares. Empleadores inescrupulosos contratan a personas de América Central y otros países en trabajos peligrosos, en fábricas y granjas en todo el estado. En 2023, se identificaron más de 500 víctimas de trata en Michigan después de comunicarse con la Línea Directa Nacional contra la Trata de Personas; aproximadamente el 36% eran extranjeros, mientras muchas más víctimas continúan soportando estos delitos en silencio.

Los refugiados e inmigrantes son particularmente vulnerables a los traficantes, por no ser ciudadanos sumado a otras barreras. Algunos son amenazados con ser denunciados a las autoridades de inmigración si se resisten a las exigencias de su empleador, mientras que otros pueden estar trabajando para pagar una deuda que está estructurada para nunca ser pagada. USCRI está especialmente calificado para abordar estas barreras a través de servicios culturalmente apropiados e informados sobre el trauma, proporcionados en el idioma nativo del sobreviviente. Somos el proveedor más grande del país de servicios para sobrevivientes extranjeros de la trata de personas a través del Programa de Asistencia para Víctimas de la Trata de Personas (TVAP) de la Oficina sobre la Trata de Personas (OTIP) del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE. UU. (HHS) y ASPIRE Programa de Asistencia para Víctimas de la Trata de Niños.

El Programa STARS ofrece representación legal de inmigración que puede proporcionar una variedad de opciones de alivio legal, particularmente visas T y U. Otra ayuda potencial incluye el Estatus de Protección Temporal, Auto-Peticiones para Cónyuges y Niños Maltratados (VAWA), Órdenes de Protección, Asilo, Estatus Especial de Inmigrante Juvenil, Autorización de Trabajo y más. Nuestro equipo de gestión de casos ayuda a los sobrevivientes a acceder a los servicios sociales y los apoyos necesarios para alcanzar la seguridad y la estabilidad.

Si cree que usted o alguien que conoce puede ser víctima de un delito de trata, le recomendamos que se comunique con el Programa STARS para obtener más información sobre el programa y determinar si puede ser elegible para recibir ayuda. Su trabajo y difusión con el Programa STARS se mantienen estrictamente confidenciales. Puede comunicarse con el Programa STARS en STARS@refugees.org o llamando al 313-484-0416.

ACERCA DEL COMITÉ ESTADOUNIDENSE PARA REFUGIADOS E INMIGRANTES Y LOS FINANCIADORES DEL STARS

El Comité de Estados Unidos para Refugiados e Inmigrantes (USCRI), establecido en 1911, es una organización internacional no gubernamental sin fines de lucro dedicada a abordar las necesidades y los derechos de los refugiados e inmigrantes. El USCRI, que trabaja con casi 200 afiliados, brinda servicios legales, sociales y de salud a refugiados, niños migrantes no acompañados, sobrevivientes de la trata y otros inmigrantes en los 50 estados, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenia y México. USCRI aboga por los derechos de los refugiados e inmigrantes tanto a nivel nacional como mundial, ayudando a impulsar políticas, prácticas y leyes humanitarias. Para obtener más información sobre USCRI, visite www.refugees.org

La Fundación Comunitaria para el Sureste de Michigan y la Fundación del Colegio de Abogados del Estado de Michigan han contribuido con fondos a STARS. Esta publicación fue producida por el Comité de los Estados Unidos para Refugiados e Inmigrantes bajo 15POVC-23-GG-04097-HT, otorgado por la Oficina para Víctimas del Delito, Oficina de Programas de Justicia, Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos. Las opiniones, hallazgos y conclusiones o recomendaciones expresadas en esta publicación son las de los colaboradores y no representan necesariamente la posición oficial o las políticas del Departamento de Justicia de los Estados Unidos.

Traducción Carmen Elena Luna

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During Times of Uncertainty:

By Staying the Course, Our Academic Goals are Still Within Our Grasp

By Dr. Aura J. Cazares

The presidential election results in the State of Michigan confirmed what we already knew, the Hispanic community is not a monolith and has a nuanced set of priorities that makes us different at the polls and similar in what we care about. For that reason, this column will focus on what unites us, not what separates us. Such as, how do we support our students in achieving their academic goals.

> The American author James Baldwin said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." In times of change and uncertainty, the most important step we can take to achieve any goal is taking the first step. With help and a strategy, our goals are still within our reach.

January presents a critical moment for students as they contemplate how they will achieve their goals. An article by Forbes.com confirms the various questions of what a Trump presidency means for the education sector like, what will happen to students attending colleges or universities who rely on federal moneys, scholarships, or through special grants? What will happen with programs aligned with diversity, equity, and inclusion? What will happen to students who have DACA status? While it is too soon to provide an answer to any of these specific questions, my advice for our families and students is to focus on the steps we need to follow; in other words **Stay the Course.**

Staying the course means following the three pillars we've discussed in prior articles, 1) being conscious about what the priorities are depending on their grade level and goals, 2) asking for help and accepting help, and 3) being informed about upcoming admissions and scholarship deadlines.

Staying the course means "Starting on the right foot."

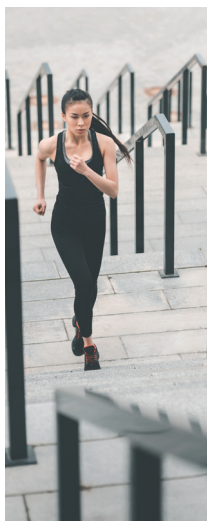
January is a crucial month for high school seniors since they have to focus on completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), applying for scholarships offered by private organizations, continuing their application process, retaking the ACT/SAT if their universities require them, and finishing their high school year strong. YES- universities look at the last semester and require the full high school transcript.

Staying the course means, remembering that "Nobody is born knowing everything."

Giving our families grace and recognizing that completing the FAFSA, retaking the ACT/SAT is not always promoted, finding scholarships by organizations and universities is challenging, and focusing on finish the school year with all these tasks and familial obligations is challenging. So, it is important to attend high school university and FAFSA fairs sponsored by high schools, churches, and organizations like the Michigan Hispanic Collaborative (MiHC), Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education (Alsame), The Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRO), La Casa Guadalupana, and your local organizations.

Staying the course means "Time is of the essence."

The majority of students state that processes that require multiple steps make meeting deadlines challenging. A strategy to prioritize and complete tasks in a timely manner is to identify each deadline and the number of steps needed to complete each form. For example, completing the FAFSA and securing letters of recommendation for scholarships and admissions applications in a timely manner can be achieved by assigning each step a deadline. Keeping in mind that the last step must be completed a week or two prior to the institutional deadline on a calendar.



Alcanzar Tus Sueños Académicos Aun Esta a Tu Alcance:

Como Mantener el Enfoque en Tiempos de Incertidumbre

Por Dra. Aura J. Cazares

Los resultados de las elecciones presidenciales en el estado de Michigan confirmaron lo que ya sabíamos, la comunidad hispana no es un monolito y a pesar de que existen diferencias en las urnas, también hay similitudes sobre la importancia del éxito de nuestros seres queridos. Por esa razón, este artículo se centrará en lo que nos une, no en lo que nos separa, ¿cómo apoyamos a nuestros estudiantes para que logren sus metas académicas?

Enero presenta un momento crítico para los estudiantes mientras contemplan cómo lograrán sus metas académicas. Un artículo de la revista Forbes.com confirmo la incertidumbre que significa la presidencia de Trump para el sector educativo, como ¿qué pasará con los estudiantes que asisten a colegios o universidades que dependen de fondos federales, becas o subvenciones especiales? ¿Qué pasará con los programas alineados con la diversidad, la equidad y la inclusión? ¿Qué pasará con los estudiantes que tienen estatus DACA? Si bien es demasiado pronto para dar una respuesta a cualquiera de estas preguntas específicas, mi consejo para nuestras familias y estudiantes es centrarse en los pasos que debemos seguir independiente de quien esté a cargo de la presidencia. En otras palabras, debemos mantener el enfoque en los pasos que se deben seguir.

Mantener el enfoque significa seguir los tres pilares que hemos comentado en ediciones anteriores, 1) ser consciente de cuáles son las prioridades en función de su grado y objetivos, 2) pedir ayuda y aceptar ayuda, y 3) estar informado sobre las fechas limites de los pasos para ingresar a la universidad y obtener becase y concesiones.

¿Cómo empezar con el pie derecho y Mantener el Enfoque?

El mes de enero es crucial para los estudiantes del último año de secundaria, ya que tienen que concentrarse en completar la aplicación gratuita para obtener ayuda financiera federal, (mejor conocida como FAFSA por sus siglas en inglés), solicitar becas ofrecidas por organizaciones privadas, continuar con su proceso de solicitud universitaria, volver a tomar el ACT/SAT si sus universidades lo requieren, y terminar con éxito su año de secundaria. Y, SÍ, las universidades requieren y repasan los resultados del último semestre y requieren el expediente académico completo de la escuela secundaria.

> El autor estadounidense James Baldwin dijo: "No todo lo que se enfrenta se puede cambiar, pero nada se puede cambiar hasta que se enfrenta." En tiempos de cambio e incertidumbre, el paso más importante que podemos dar para alcanzar cualquier objetivo es dar el primer paso. Lo más importante es recordar que con ayuda y siguiendo estas estrategias, nuestros objetivos aún están a nuestro alcance.

Mantener el enfoque requiere recordar que nadie nace sabiendo todo

Debemos reconocer que en muchas preparatorias no es promovido la importancia del completar la FAFSA, retomar el ACT/SAT, como encontrar becas de organizaciones y universidades se vuelve un obstáculo más, y enfocarse en terminar el año escolar con todas estas tareas y obligaciones familiares es un desafío. Por eso, es importante asistir a las ferias universitarias y noches de FAFSA patrocinadas por escuelas secundarias, iglesias y organizaciones como la organización Michigan Hispanic Collaborative (MiHC), la asociación enfocada para promover el éxito de los estudiantes latinos de Michigan (conocida por sus siglas en inglés como Alsame), la asociación de consejos de admisión y matriculación del estado de Michigan (conocida por sus siglas en ingles como MACRO), La Casa Guadalupana y tus organizaciones locales.

¿Cómo mantener el enfoque para ganarle tiempo al tiempo?

La mayoría de los estudiantes afirman que los procesos que requieren múltiples pasos dificultan el cumplimiento de las fechas límites. Una estrategia para priorizar y completar tareas de manera puntual es identificar cada fecha límite y la cantidad de pasos necesarios para completar cada formulario. Por ejemplo, se puede completar la FAFSA y obtener cartas de recomendación para becas y solicitudes de admisión de manera puntual asignando una fecha limite a cada paso tomando en cuenta que el último paso deberá completarse una o dos semanas antes de la fecha límite en un calendario.

Dr. Aura J. Cazares has over two decades of experience employing Spanish fluency and analytical skills to lead strategic enrollment and student support systems, and currently leads support systems for students and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at a four-year institution. Her passions are addressing systemic barriers that preclude student success and educating her community about how to achieve academic and professional success.

La Dra. Aura J. Cazares tiene más de dos décadas empleando fluidez en español y habilidades analíticas para liderar la matriculación de estudiantes y sistemas de apoyo e iniciativas de diversidad, equidad e inclusión en una institución pública de cuatro años. Su interés y pasión son desmantelar sistemas que impiden el éxito de los estudiantes y educar a la comunidad sobre como alcanzar el éxito académico y profesional.

Special World's Cultures

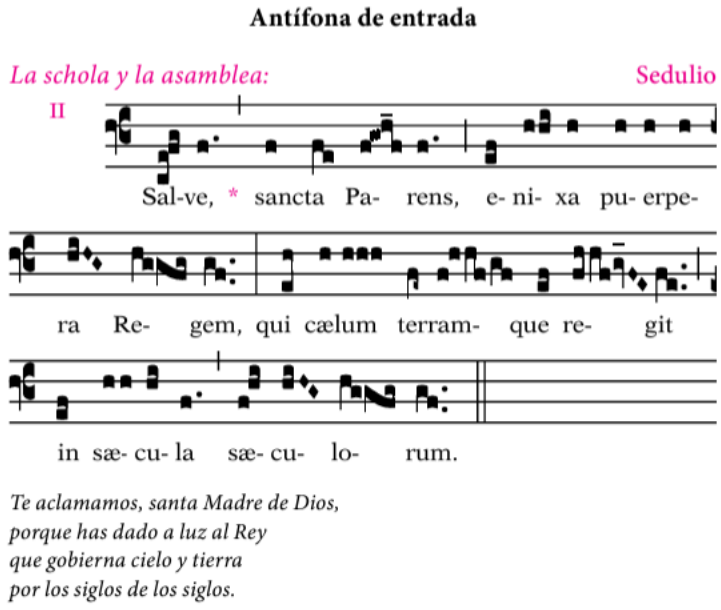
Eucharist for the Virgin

Eucharist for the Virgin of Guadalupe

The year begins, with it the plans and purposes for the new 2025. What should we look for in this new year? Perhaps it is a good time to prepare for events to focus on. On December 12 of each year, Pope Francis leads the Eucharist to celebrate the appearance of the Virgin of Guadalupe in the Vatican City, this being one of the few festivities that unify Catholic parishioners from around the world. Thus, the celebration of the Eucharist in honor of the appearance of the Virgin of Guadalupe is celebrated not only by Mexicans in the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

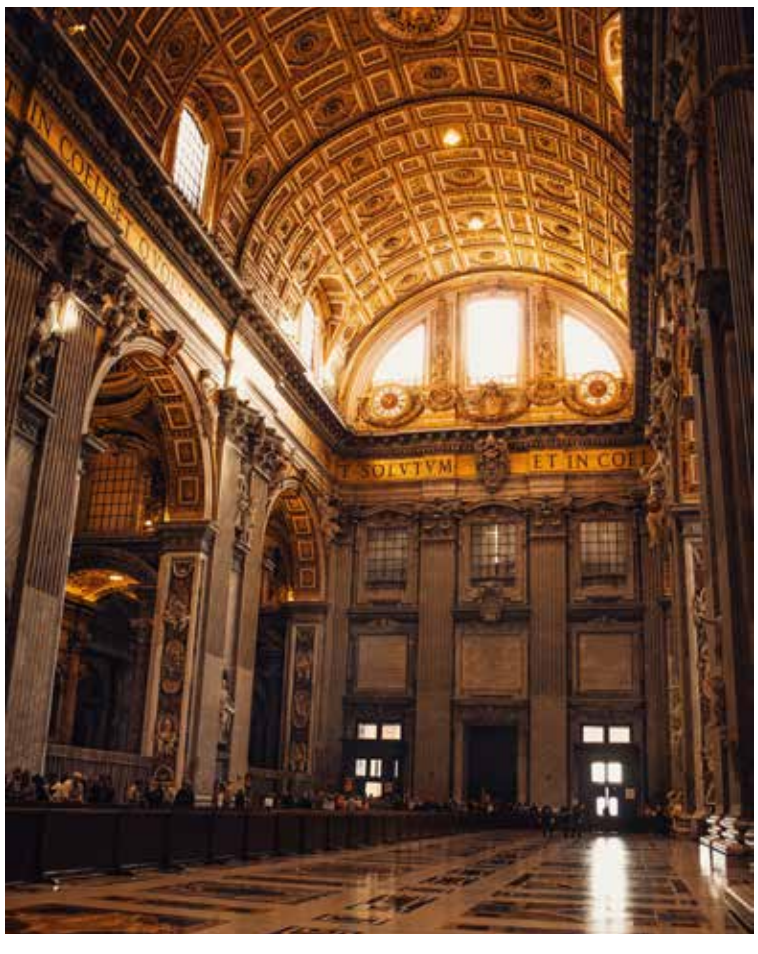
Thus, starting the year, it would be appropriate for Guadalupe Catholics to anticipate this time of enormous joy and well-being by planning to visit the Vatican City in Rome, Italy during the month of December and be part of the celebration in honor of the appearance of the Virgin of Guadalupe. As we mentioned in the December commemorative publication regarding the story of the appearance of the Virgin before Juan Diego, it was first part of an oral tradition that was transmitted from devotee to devotee in the streets of New Spain. Later, the friars poured this anecdote into texts of central importance for the Catholics of the capital, some of which were written in the Nahuatl language such as the Nican Mopohua, which literally means "Here it is narrated", where this tradition is told. Thanks to these cultural means of social memory, the story was preserved and transmitted to a large crowd of faithful, which has allowed this devotion to reach different parts of the planet, thereby gaining more and more followers and conquering more and more places where it has been present. Last December 2024, another edition of the Mexican Christmas was held at the Vatican, this time excellently organized by the government of Coahuila, generating celebrations such as matachines dances at the Holy See and other parts of Rome.

Likewise, as part of these celebrations, they ordered a Nativity scene made by the illustrious Agustín Parra Echauri, a great Mexican plastic artist who has had the good fortune to work for three different popes: John Paul II, Benedict XVI and the current Francis I, which makes him one of the few artists who have worked for more than two popes, an honor that only authors of the stature of Bernini have.

On the night of the Eucharist, last Wednesday, December 12, the Holy Mass was celebrated in the Holy See presided over by Pope Francis himself in person. Along with all the gala and dignity of the celebration with songs, prayers and reflections on the appearance of the Virgin of Tepeyac, the Pope's conclusion on the subject was added: "We must not lose sight of the fact that the appearance of the Virgin to Juan Diego sought to convey a message of unity, first among Catholics and, at the same time, also of humanity with God, so that the themes of ideologies and politics must always be kept apart from the real message of this religious event."

Antífona de entrada
La schola y la asamblea:
Sedulio
II
Sal-ve, * sancta Pa- rens, e- ni- xa pu- erpe-
ra Re- gem, qui cælum terram- que re- git
in sæ- cu- la sæ- cu- lo- rum.
Te aclamamos, santa Madre de Dios,
porque has dado a luz al Rey
que gobierna cielo y tierra
por los siglos de los siglos.

In this way, these celebrations in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe, the Madonna of Guadalupe, our Virgin of Guadalupe so well known by all Mexicans, were held in the Holy See, an event that was undoubtedly the culmination with a flourish of the celebrations of the Mexican Christmas in the Vatican. In this event, the devotion of the Catholics who joined in this night of celebration and reflection presided over by the Holy Father was certainly felt.

By, Víctor Manuel Bañuelos y Mariana Ayón RV



Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

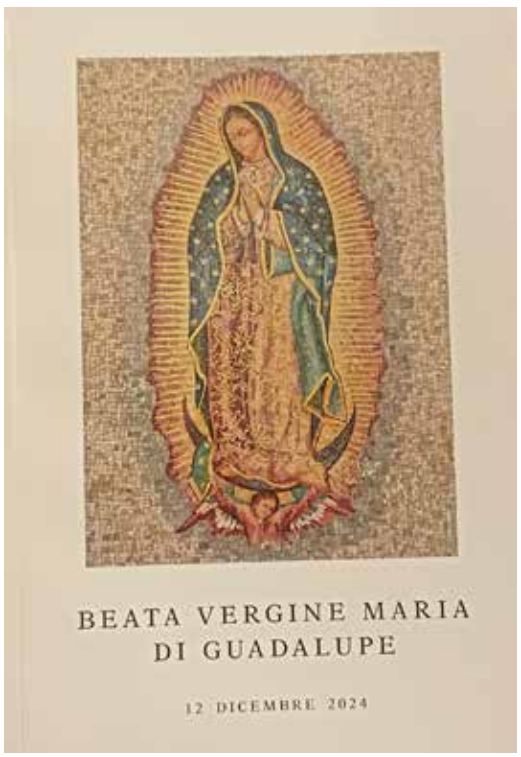
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Eucaristía para la Virgen

Eucaristía para la Virgen de Guadalupe

Empieza el año, con éste los planes y propósitos para el nuevo 2025. ¿Qué habríamos de buscar en este nuevo año? Quizá sea buen momento de prepararnos para eventos a los cuales enfocarnos. El 12 de diciembre de cada año el Papa Francisco lidera la eucaristía para celebrar la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe en la ciudad del Vaticano, siendo ésta una de las pocas festividades que unifican a los feligreses católicos de todo el mundo. Así, la celebración de la eucaristía en honor a la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe es celebrada no solamente por los mexicanos en la Basílica de Guadalupe en la Ciudad de México.

Así, empezando el año, sería apropiado para los católicos guadalupanos anticipar este tiempo de enorme dicha y bienestar planeando de visitar durante el mes de diciembre la Ciudad del Vaticano en Roma,



Italia y ser parte de la fiesta en honor a la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe.

Como mencionamos en la publicación conmemorativa de diciembre respecto a la narración sobre la aparición de la Virgen ante Juan Diego fue primeramente parte de una tradición oral que se transmitió de devoto a devoto en las calles de la Nueva España. De manera posterior, los frailes vertieron tal anécdota en textos de importancia medular para los católicos de la capital, los cuales fueron algunos escritos en lengua náhuatl como el Nican Mopohua, que significa literalmente "Aquí se narra", donde se cuenta esta tradición. Gracias a estos medios culturales de la memoria social fue que el relato se resguardó y transmitió a una gran caterva de fieles, lo cual ha permitido que esta devoción llegara a distintas partes del planeta, ganando con ello cada vez más adeptos y conquistando más y más lugares en los cuales se ha hecho presente.

En el pasado diciembre del año 2024, se llevó a cabo una edición más de la Navidad Mexicana en el Vaticano, en esta ocasión organizada excelsamente por el gobierno de Coahuila, generando festejos como danzas de matachines en la Santa Sede y otras partes de Roma. Igualmente,

como parte de dichas celebraciones mandaron traer un Nacimiento realizado por el ilustre Agustín Parra Echauri, gran artista plástico mexicano que ha tenido la dicha de trabajar para tres papas distintos: Juan Pablo II, Benedicto XVI y el actual Francisco I, lo cual lo convierte en uno de los pocos artistas que han trabajado para más de dos papas, un honor que sólo tienen autores de la talla de Bernini.

La noche de la Eucaristía, el pasado miércoles 12 de diciembre se celebró en la Santa Sede la santa misa presidida por el mismo Papa Francisco en persona. Junto con toda la gala y dignidad de la celebración con cantos, oraciones y reflexiones sobre la aparición de la Virgen del Tepeyac, se sumó la conclusión sobre el tema que hizo el Papa: "No debe de perderse de vista que la aparición de la

Virgen a Juan Diego buscaba llevar un mensaje de unidad, primeramente entre católicos y, a su vez, también de la humanidad con Dios, de manera que los temas de ideologías y política se deben de mantener siempre al margen del mensaje real de este acontecimiento religioso".

De esta manera se llevaron a cabo estas fiestas en honor a la Beata Vergine Maria di Guadalupe, la Madonna di Guadalupe, nuestra Virgen de Guadalupe tan bien conocida por todos los mexicanos, en la Santa Sede, evento que sin duda fue la culminación con broche de oro de las celebraciones de la Navidad Mexicana en el Vaticano. En este evento ciertamente se sintió la devoción de los católicos que se unieron a esta noche de fiesta y reflexión presidida por el Santo Padre.

Víctor Manuel Bañuelos y Mariana Ayón RV

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News

Lions Take #1 in NFC North and NFC Division !!!

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos provided by Detroit Lions

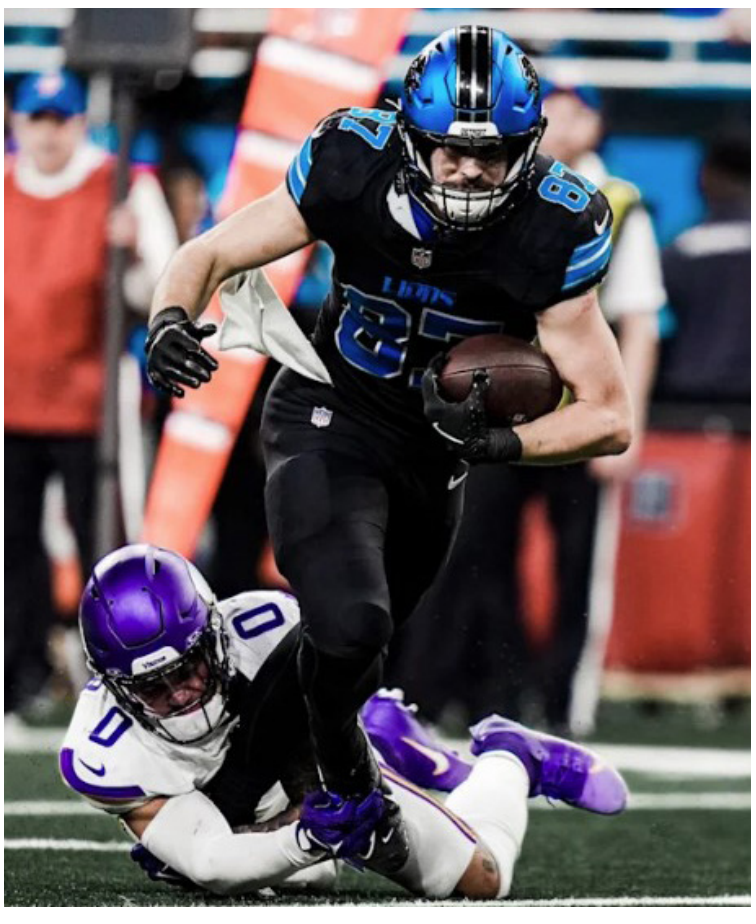
The Detroit Lions have made history this season. For the first time in franchise history they had a record of 15-2, first NFC Conference best record (winning first place in the NFC Conference). The Detroit Lions hosted the Minnesota Vikings, this past Sunday, at a packed Ford Field. The Lions defeated the Vikings 31-9.

The Detroit Lions have a BYE for the first round of the playoffs, and will host the second game at Ford Field on, either Saturday, January 18th, or Sunday, January 19th, for the NFC Divisional Round. If the Lions win the Divisional Round, they will host the NFC Championship game, on Sunday, January 26th. If the Lions pull out the victory for that game, they will move onto Super Bowl LIX, on Sunday, February 9th, in New Orleans

Detroit Lions wearing their victory shirts and hats, after defeating the Vikings and winning #1 in the NFC North and NFC Division, in the locker room

The Spirit of Detroit statue dressed up with a Lions jersey in support for the Lions victory

Lions RB #26 Jahmyr Gibbs making a play against the Vikings. Gibbs had 23 carries for 139 yards with 3 TDs, and 5 receptions for 31 yards 1 TD



Lions TE #87 Sam LaPorta making a play against the Vikings Defense. LaPorta had 7 receptions for 63 yards

Pochettino Checking Out Domestic Talent

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

While we are enduring some typically January freezing temperatures in Michigan, one of the uniquely American annual soccer events is kicking off in Florida. The United States men's national team coach, Mauricio Pochettino has gathered the much of the cream of domestic talent for a camp that will culminate with friendlies against Venezuela and Costa Rica later this month. The January camp is an American soccer tradition going back over thirty years, to the preparations for the 1994 World Cup. For a coach like Pochettino, it will be an entirely new experience calling in players prior to their season and playing two internationals.

Calling his roster the cream of domestic talent might do a disservice to the Europe and Mexico based players who make up virtually the entire first choice national team. Because January does not have a FIFA mandatory release window, Pochettino has had to rely on the willingness of MLS clubs to allow their players to spend a little over two weeks of preseason with what is essentially a shadow national team. Given that the pool of players overseas includes roughly forty players, the new manager is plumbing the depths of the fringes of the national team to see if he can find one or two players who have a chance to contribute to the full team.

If Pochettino wasn't familiar with Major League Soccer before taking the national team job, he has certainly had a sharp learning curve. The research he and his staff put in led to calling in a variety of players, young like Chicago Fire midfielder Brian Gutierrez and old like Charlotte FC defender Tim Ream. He also included the controversial Matko Miljevic, who was expelled from MLS after registering under a false name in a Quebec amateur league and getting banned for punching an opponent while playing under the assumed name. He was recently let go by Newell's Old Boys in Argentina for further disciplinary issues.

With the World Cup less than 18 months away, Pochettino has included a number of veterans who have had varied levels of success in the national team program. Defenders Walker Zimmerman and Miles Robinson join Tim Ream in the old category. The former two played in the Olympics as overage players with mixed results.

That's not to say there aren't any intriguing prospects among the twenty-four players picked. Inter Miami midfielder Benjamin Cremaschi has spent over a year under the tutelage of Lionel Messi. He was the youngest player on the US Olympic squad and didn't look out of place. This is the kind of camp in which he can take the next steps. The same goes for Real Salt Lake midfielder Diego Luna, who was cut from the Olympic team. He played a big role for RSL last year, but has not had a chance to show if he can make it at the next level.

Having Fulham's Antonee Robinson at left back for the national team is a comfort for Pochettino, but it would be nice to have a reliable backup. To that end, the New York Red Bulls' John Tolkin and Columbus' Max Arfsten will have this camp to audition. Tolkin has been the subject of transfer rumors since the summer and could still move to Europe this month.

Pochettino also has a dilemma in the goalkeeper position. First choice Matt Turner, backup Ethan Horvath, and top prospect Gabriel Slonina are not playing for their clubs in Europe. Slonina has been injured and was recalled to Chelsea from his loan to Barnsley. Turner and Horvath are buried on the benches of Crystal Palace and Cardiff City. It's not ideal. Four MLS goalkeepers will be in camp this month: veteran Zach Steffen (Colorado), Olympic starter Patrick Schulte (Columbus), Matt Freese (New York City), and Drake Callender (Inter Miami). Steffen had a decent year in Colorado and has experience in Europe, which Pochettino clearly values. Schulte has had two excellent season with Columbus and his Olympic experience. Callender benefits from the Messi effect in Miami. Freese is the interesting case, because he sat behind Jamaican Andre Blake in Philadelphia before moving to NYCFC and taking over the starting job.

Normally, the friendly games at the end of these camps lack excitement. Every year we hope to be entertained, but with the MLS players out of season and their opponents just barely into their seasons, it's hard to imagine these games will be much different. The results will be seen later in the year when the national team plays the final rounds of the CONCACAF Nations League in March the CONCACAF Gold Cup in June.

WARDING OFF THE COLD

While pitches outside are frozen, the biggest local soccer events are the Detroit City FC women's team's indoor games. The club entered a team in the Major Arena Soccer League for the second year running. The MASLW is a 21 team league, divided into four groups. DCFC is in the Great Lakes North division with three other teams. They will play a ten game regular season schedule, concluding on March 15. After that, if they keep up their hot start, there are playoffs.

The club joined MASLW in order to keep the women's team going before preparations begin for the 2025 USL W League. DCFC hopes to build on a great 2024 that saw the team bow out in the national semifinals in a heartbreaking loss to Colorado. Many of the players from that team stuck around town and are on the MASLW roster. Goalkeeper Gabby Shriver, a team captain, anchors the defense. Kayla Addison leads the attack with 6 goals in the first two games.

DCFC plays their home games at the Detroit City Clubhouse, an intimate venue with limited seating. The first home game, a 9-2 win over Kalamazoo United, sold out well in advance. Kalamazoo will also be the opponent for the next home game on January 18. To see this dynamic team in action, secure tickets early.

DCFC Defeats Kalamazoo United, 9-2 !!!

Photos by: Adam J. Dewey

Detroit City Football Club started play in 2025 with a dominant, wire-to-wire victory over Kalamazoo United FC on Saturday night at the Detroit City Fieldhouse! #11 Claire Ciarlino was named the Woman of the Match for her two-goal, one-assist performance in Le Rouge's 9-2 win.

Next up, Detroit City FC hosts Kalamazoo United again at the Detroit City Fieldhouse on Saturday, January 18.

DCFC shows their appreciation for the supporters at the conclusion of their 9-2 victory over Kalamazoo United

Allie Tefend (#26) is tripped by a Kalamazoo United defender

Kayla Addison (#9) scores a goal against Kalamazoo United

Hannah Crum (#10) makes a slide tackle

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING JOB OPENINGS • POSITION OPENINGS

Strangers No Longer is a network of Catholics and others across Michigan, formed in 2017 around immigrants to provide education, accompaniment of families in crisis, and advocacy for humane policies and practices. Our community organizing and leadership development work includes: Spanish-speaking Immigrant Circles of Support (Statewide Council of Immigrant Leaders); High School Circles of Support; Parish-based Circles of Support (SE Michigan); Broad-based (congregations/agencies) Community Organizing in Northern Lower Peninsula and in the Thumb Region; Statewide Farmworker Outreach on Bird Flu Prevention; Task Force on Local and Statewide Pro-immigrant Advocacy; Task Force on Education on Immigration Issues.

We announce these position openings:

Community Organizers

Full and part-time. Can be based in Southeast Michigan or Lower Peninsula. $45,000 - $60,000 (depending on community organizing experience). Travel will be reimbursed. Benefits available for full-time.

Deputy Director

with added responsibility to create a Statewide Leadership Training Program. $60,000 - 75,000 (depending on community organizing and fundraising experience) plus benefits. Must be based in Southeast Michigan.

Part-time Administrator

(5-10 hours/week): Bookkeeping, communications, social media, data entry, event management. Must be based in Southeast Michigan. $25/hour, primarily remote work.

APPLICATION: send a Letter of Interest (including the desired position) plus resume/curriculum vitae, to Bill O'Brien, Executive Director, Strangers No Longer, at billobrien2018@gmail.com.

STRANGERS NO LONGER

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1 oldest, largest, genuinely local and only bi-lingual Hispanic news. Minority (Hispanic) and woman owned. Multi-year winner of Jose Marti National Award for excellence in Editorial and Design. Published in Metro Detroit since 1988.

EL CENTRAL informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino/a community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

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Guest Opinion:

Trump will overplay his hand. Be ready for when he does

By Robert Reich

Friends,

I sometimes share with you perspectives about what we're up against from non-American writers and journalists. Asli Aydintasbas, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C., and a former journalist, published this short essay recently in Politico Magazine. As we prepare for Trump's regime, I thought you'd find her views useful.

***

American democracy is about to undergo a serious stress test. I know how it feels, in part because I lived through the slow and steady march of state capture as a journalist working in Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Turkey.

Over a decade as a high-profile journalist, I covered Turkey's descent into illiberalism, having to engage in the daily push and pull with the government. I know how self-censorship starts in small ways but then creeps into operations on a daily basis. I am familiar with the rhythms of the battle to reshape the media, state institutions and the judiciary.

Having lived through it, and having gathered some lessons in hindsight, I believe that there are strategies that can help Democrats and Trump critics not only survive the coming four years, but come out stronger. Here are six of them.

1. Don't Panic — Autocracy Takes Time

President-elect Donald Trump's return to power is unnerving but America will not turn into a dictatorship overnight — or in four years. Even the most determined strongmen face internal hurdles, from the bureaucracy to the media and the courts. It took Erdoğan well over a decade to fully consolidate his power. Hungary's Viktor Orbán and Poland's Law and Justice Party needed years to erode democratic norms and fortify their grip on state institutions.

I am not suggesting that the United States is immune to these patterns, but it's important to remember that its decentralized system of governance — the network of state and local governments — offers enormous resilience. Federal judges serve lifetime appointments, states and governors have specific powers separate from those granted federally, there are local legislatures, and the media has the First Amendment as a shield, reinforced by over a century of legal precedents.

Sure, there are dangers, including by a Supreme Court that might grant great deference to the president. But in the end, Donald Trump really only has two years to try to execute state capture. Legal battles, congressional pushback, market forces, midterm elections in 2026 and internal Republican dissent will slow him down and restrain him. The bottom line is that the U.S. is too decentralized in its governance system for a complete takeover. The Orbanization of America is not an imminent threat.

2. Don't Disengage — Stay Connected

After a stunning electoral loss like this, there's a natural impulse to shut off the news, log off social media and withdraw from public life. I've seen this with friends in Turkey and Hungary with opposition supporters retreating in disillusionment after Erdogan's or Orbam's victories. Understandably, people want to turn inwards.

Dancing, travel, meditation, book clubs — it's all fine. But eventually, in Poland, Hungary and Turkey, opponents of autocracy have returned to the fight, driven by a belief in the possibility of change. So will Americans.

Nothing is more meaningful than being part of a struggle for democracy. That's why millions of Turks turned out to the polls and gave the opposition a historic victory in local governments across Turkey earlier this year. That's how the Poles organized a winning coalition to vote out the conservative Law and Justice Party last year. It can happen here, too.

The answer to political defeat is not to disconnect, but to organize. You can take a couple of days or weeks off, commiserate with friends and mute Elon Musk on X — or erase the app altogether. But in the end, the best way to develop emotional resilience is greater engagement.

3. Don't Fear the Infighting

Donald Trump's victory has understandably triggered infighting inside the Democratic Party and it looks ugly. But fear not. These recriminations and finger-pointing are necessary to move forward. In Turkey, Hungary and Poland, it was only after the opposition parties faced their strategic and ideological misalignment with society that they were able to begin to effectively fight back.

Trump has tapped into the widespread belief that the economic order, labor-capital relations, housing and the immigration system are broken. You may think he is a hypocrite, but there is no doubt that he has convinced a large cross-section of American society that he is actually the agent of change — a spokesman for their interests as opposed to "Democratic elites." This is exactly what strongmen like Erdoğan and Orban have achieved.

For the Democratic Party to redefine itself as a force for change, and not just as the custodian of the status quo, it needs fundamental shifts in how it relates to working people in the U.S. There is time to do so before the midterms of 2026.

4. Charismatic Leadership Is a Non-Negotiable

One lesson from Turkey and Hungary is clear: You will lose if you don't find a captivating leader, as was the case in 2023 general elections in Turkey and in 2022 in Hungary. Coalition-building or economic messaging is necessary and good. But it is not enough. You need charisma to mobilize social dissent.

Trump was beatable in this election, but only with a more captivating candidate. For Democrats, the mistake after smartly pushing aside President Joe Biden was bypassing the primaries and handpicking a candidate. Future success for the party will hinge on identifying a candidate who can better connect with voters and channel their aspirations. It should not be too hard in a country of 350 million.

Last year's elections in Poland and Turkey showcased how incumbents can be defeated (or not defeated, as in general elections in Turkey in 2023) depending on the opposition's ability to unite around compelling candidates who resonate with voters. Voters seek authenticity and a connection — give it to them.

5. Skip the Protests and Identity Politics

Soon, Trump opponents will shake off the doldrums and start organizing an opposition campaign. But how they do it matters. For the longest time in Turkey, the opposition made the mistake of relying too much on holding street demonstrations and promoting secularism, Turkey's version of identity politics, which speaks to the urban professional and middle class but not beyond. When Erdoğan finally lost his absolute predominance in Turkish politics in 2024, it was largely because of his mismanagement of the economy and the opposition's growing competence in that area.

Trump's appeal transcends traditional divides of race, gender and class. He has formed a new Republican coalition and to counteract this. Democrats too, must broaden their tent, even if means trying to appeal to conservatives on some issues. Opposition over the next four years must be strategic and broad-based.

Street protests and calls to defend democracy may be inspirational, but they repel conservatives and suburban America. Any grassroots action must be coupled with a clear, relatable economic message and showcase the leadership potential of Democratic mayors and governors. Identity politics alone won't do it.

6. Have Hope

Nothing lasts forever and the U.S. is not the only part of the world that faces threats to democracy — and Americans are no different than the French, the Turks or Hungarians when it comes to the appeal of the far right. But in a country with a strong, decentralized system of government and with a long-standing tradition of free speech, the rule of law should be far more resilient than anywhere in the world.

Trump's return to power certainly poses challenges to U.S. democracy. But he will make mistakes and overplay his hand — at home and abroad. America will survive the next four years if Democrats pick themselves up and start learning from the successes of opponents of autocracy across the globe.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

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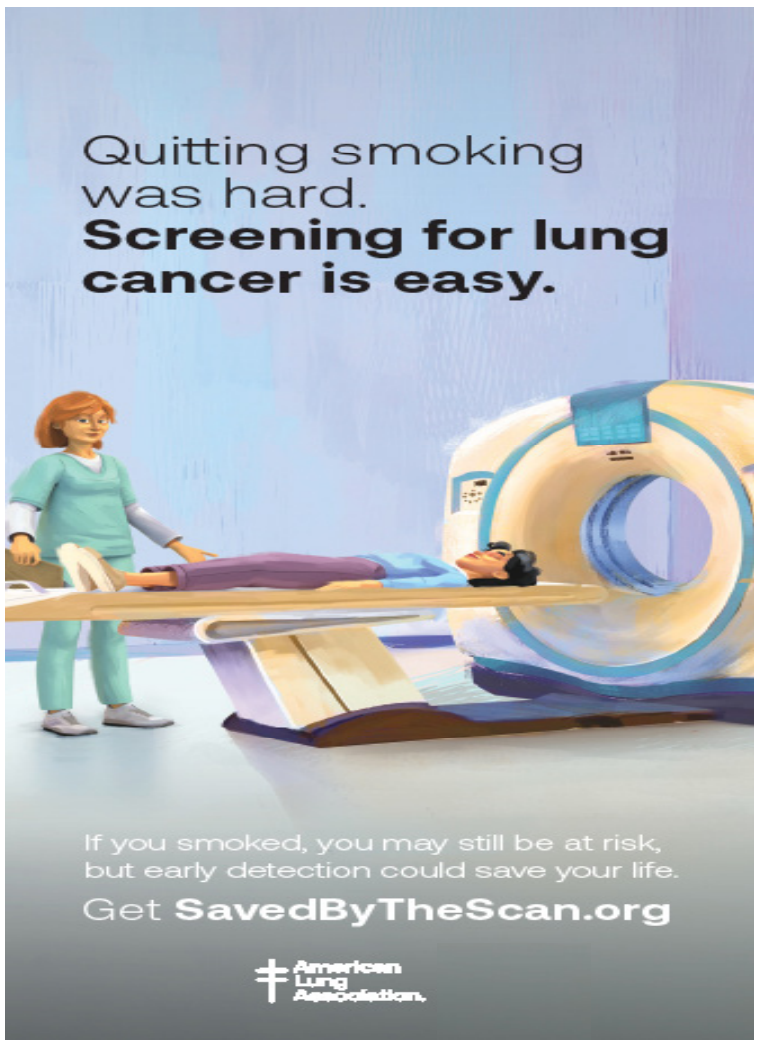
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